

## WOMEN'S DAY IN RED CROSS DRIVE IS IN FULL SWING

Today is "woman's day" in the great drive of the local Red Cross chapters for 42,000 new members in seven days, which began last Monday. Women workers in the campaign are making special efforts to make today the "banner" day of the drive, and bright and early began their onslaughts on the hearts and pocketbooks of Washington women.

One committee is working to enlist as many girl store workers as possible; others the women's fraternal organizations, the nurses in the hospitals, the suffragette organizations, the various women's club, the government workers, of whom thousands have come to Washington in the recent great influx, and the ladies' auxiliaries of the various churches.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are expected to join en

masse, as are the members of the Twentieth Century Club, the Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Associations, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Women's Council of National Defense, the Gentlewomen's League, the Guadalupe Club, the Woman's Single Tax Club, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. No clubs or organizations of the fair sex have been overlooked. Even the actresses playing in Washington this week will be asked to become members.

Forty-one hundred was the total number of new members gathered in yesterday's harvest, according to officials of the Potomac division, which is conducting the local campaign. Today's figures will greatly exceed that and may run well over the 6,000 allotted for the day.

## WOUNDED CANADIAN TROOPS REACH U. S. PORT

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 19.—Two thousand wounded Canadian soldiers were brought in here today by a former trans-Atlantic liner now in the British government service. They will be placed aboard train and taken to Canada for distribution to their various homes.

About four score surgeons and nurses accompanied the convalescents on the trip across the Atlantic.

## PRICE OF GAS UP TO COMMISSIONERS, SAYS SEN. NORRIS

Whether the Washington Gas Light Company will be allowed to increase its rates from 75 cents to \$1.10 per 1,000 cubic feet today is squarely up to the Public Utilities Commissioners—and up to them alone, according to Senator Norris of Nebraska.

At the hearing yesterday Commissioner Gardiner introduced the fact that Congress had passed an act which seemed to prohibit the increase asked. This act was included in the bill passed to provide for the expenses of the branches of the Government located in Washington. It went into effect on October 3 of last year.

In an interview today, Senator Norris, author of the bill, told The Times that, according to his interpretation of his own bill, Congress had absolutely nothing to do with the settlement of the question before the Commissioners today.

## Telephone Hearing Tomorrow

The Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing tomorrow at 10:30 o'clock in the board room of the District building to consider the telephone company's request for an increase in rates. The commission expresses the desire to hear both sides of the matter. The telephone company's representatives will be at the hearing in force. Representatives of trade bodies and citizens' associations who have been designated to attend the hearing should be there at the opening and record their presence.

The District of Columbia at a rate in excess of 70 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

The act goes on to say that "The Washington Gas Light Company shall not charge or collect for gas furnished a private consumer in excess of 75 cents per 1,000 cubic feet." The act also states that the Georgetown Gas Light Company shall not charge more than 55 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for gas.

The point of uncertainty comes with this proviso which is attached to the act: "This act is not to be construed as limiting or taking away any of the powers now vested by law in the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia."

Gardiner seeks interpretation. Commissioner Gardiner laid great stress upon this act of Congress, passed primarily to cover the appropriations of 1916, at the public hearing yesterday. He tried without success to ascertain the interpretation put upon the act by the gas company. Mr. Gardiner at the hearing also questioned the power of the Commission to act upon the petition of the gas company before the correct valuation of the company's property shall have been settled by the court.

At the last public hearing of the claims of the telephone company, it was hinted that private subscribers should not be required to bear the expense of the extra telephone equipment brought here for the use of the government.

"Possibly Congress should step in and take a part of the burden on its own shoulder," was the remark of Corporation Counsel Syme at the last hearing. "The people that are not responsible for the added expense should not be made to bear the brunt of it."

## WOMEN TO DRESS ALIKE, IF THEY CAN AGREE ON IT

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 19.—Minnesota women may be called upon for the supreme war sacrifice—that of dressing like every other woman. Women of the State Defense Council met today to discuss uniform dresses to conserve material.

## ADDRESS CHANGES COMPLICATE WORK OF DRAFT BOARDS

District draft boards today find their work in regard to questionnaires is being seriously hindered because many registrants have failed to report changes of address.

Large numbers of questionnaires have been returned to all the boards with the postoffice mark "Unclaimed." This is the situation in spite of many warnings that the boards were not

to be held responsible for any registrant's failure to receive his questionnaire.

Chairman of all the boards today repeat their warning that any registrant who fails to return his questionnaire properly filled out within seven days from the date of making will be immediately placed in the first class available for military service. This does not mean, the chairmen say, that any valid excuse will not be heard. But it does mean registrants who fail to receive their questionnaire because they failed to report changes of address will be placed in class one pending satisfactory report to the board within seven days.

The first questionnaires returned by the postoffice, through inability to find the addresses were received today by local board No. 11, located in the old Central High School building, Seventh and O streets northwest.

Thomas Henry Bell, 1365 Bladensburg road; Lawrence Sears, St. Elizabeth's Hospital; and Eddie Lee Johnson, 3314 Montello avenue, whose questionnaires were mailed to the last addresses given on December 15, and William Andrew Dixon, colored, 4410 Washington court, mailed on December 17, were the registrants in question.

## LONE ISLAND RESIDENTS ICE-BOUND ON SHORE

LEAMINGTON, Ontario, Dec. 19.—According to a telephone message received at Leamington, forty residents of Pelee, the Canadian island in Lake Erie, who left the island for Sandusky, Ohio, are unable to return because of ice conditions. The boat on which they made the trip to the Ohio city is unable to cope with the heavy ice in the lake. The Canadians may be compelled to stay in Sandusky some days.

## SOLDIER VOTE STRONG FOR MAYOR-ELECT HYLAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The count of the vote of the New York city soldiers cast recently by the majority election in favor of Judge John Hylan, mayor-elect, Judge Hyman received 15,722 soldier votes, while Mayor Mitchell received 6,228 and Morris Hillquit, the Socialist candidate, received 3,117.

## CASTORIA

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## Concerning the Pay of Government Clerks

The Following Price List Gives Some  
Idea of the Increased Cost of Living:

Comparison of Retail Prices of Foods During December, 1914; December, 1915; December, 1917.

### GROCERIES

	Dec. 1914	Dec. 1915	Dec. 1917
Bread, one pound loaf	4c	4c	7c
Sugar, granulated, lb.	5c	6c	9½c
Flour, Gold Medal, lb.	4c	4c	6½c
Milk, condensed, can.	10c	10c	19c
Milk, evaporated, tall can.	7½c	9c	15c
Milk, evaporated, small can.	8½c	4½c	8c
Tomatoes, Std., 2½'s, can.	7c	8c	16c
Corn, Std., 2½'s, can.	7c	7c	14c
Peas, E. J.	8c	7c	12c
Baked Beans, Campbell's	9c	9c	18c
Corn Meal, lb.	3c	4c	6c
Hominy, lb.	3c	4c	8c
Rice, best, lb.	9c	8c	12c
Oatmeal, lb.	5c	4c	8c
Mac. and Spaghetti, bulk, lb.	8c	8c	18c
Prunes, small, lb.	5c	5c	10c
Salmon, Red Alaska, can.	15c	15c	22c
Soups, can.	8c	9c	12c
Navy Beans, best, lb.	6c	8c	18c
Lima Beans, dried, lb.	8c	8c	22c
Catsup, bottle.	9c	9c	12c
Syrup, can.	10c	10c	15c
Corn Flakes (Quaker), pkg.	5c	7c	8c
Split Peas, lb.	5c	8c	16c
Scotch Peas, lb.	6c	7c	12c
Black-Eye Peas, lb.	4c	6c	13c

### BEEF

Rib Roast, lb.	18c	18c	27c
Chuck Roast, lb.	16c	14c	24c
Plate (soup meat)	12c	12½c	18c
Porterhouse Steak, lb.	24c	24c	35c
Sirloin Steak, lb.	22c	22c	32c
Round Steak, lb.	20c	18c	32c
Chuck Steak, lb.	18c	14c	24c
Hamburg Steak, lb.	14c	12½c	22c
Beef Liver	8c	8c	18c

### PORK

Fresh Hams	16c	15c	32c
Fresh Shoulders	14c	12½c	30c
Fresh Pork Chops, lean	16c	14c	30c
Fresh Pork Chops, loin	18c	18c	33c
Fresh Pork Roast, lean	16c	13c	32c
Fresh Pork Roast, center	18c	16c	35c
Corned Shoulders	14c	12½c	26c
Corned Hams	16c	15c	32c
Smoked Hams, whole	16c	15c	34c
Smoked Hams, sliced	25c	26c	48c
Smoked Shoulders	14c	12c	27c
Smoked Bacon, sliced	24c	22c	44c
Smoked Sausage	12½c	15c	27c
Lard, pure, lb.	12½c	11c	30c
Lard, compound, lb.	10c	10c	26c

### BUTTER, EGGS, &c.

Butterine (Oleo)	22c	22c	30c
Butter, first grade, lb.	37c	38c	55c
Eggs, doz.	32c	28c	42c
Cheese (cream)	20c	22c	32c

### VEGETABLES

Potatoes, peck	15c	23c	38c
Kale, peck	10c	12c	40c
Spinach, peck	15c	15c	70c
Onions, yellow, lb.	2c	2c	4c
Lettuce, head	5c	5c	10c
Sweet Potatoes, peck	35c	17c	80c
Cabbage, new, lb.	½c	1c	4c

Total of items, 61.			
Total units	770	891	1434
Average increase on all items shown on this list from December, 1914, to December, 1917			86.5%
Average increase on all items shown on this list from December, 1915, to December, 1917			61.1%

About one-half (or 50%) of the pay check is spent for food, which has advanced 86½% in three years.

Assuming that all other items in the family budget have remained stationary in price, it would require pay increase of 43% to break even, as against the cost of living in 1914.

What has happened to the cost of coal, shoes, clothing and about everything else is only too well known.

Conservatively figured, the cost of living has advanced in the past three years about 75%.

Were it not for the wise and energetic work of the United States Food Administration many of these prices would now be very much higher than they are. This is particularly true of flour, bread, sugar and all Canned Goods.

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Be a Life Saver.

Join the Crowd!!



War Savings Committee  
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